

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6043

BILL NUMBER: SB 265

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 19, 2011

BILL AMENDED: Jan 18, 2011

SUBJECT: Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Commission.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Waterman

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: *Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping Commission.* This bill establishes the Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping Commission. It provides the Commission with authority over fish and wildlife laws. Before a final fish or wildlife rule is adopted, the proposed rule must be approved by the Commission and receive final approval from the Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) does not have responsibility for duties given to the Commission.

Natural Resources Study Committee (NRSC). The bill requires the NRSC to study certain topics concerning (1) the adoption of rules; and (2) the authority and duties of the NRC and director. The bill repeals provisions establishing the advisory council to the Bureau of Water and Resource Regulation and the Bureau of Lands and Cultural Resources. It makes conforming changes.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping Commission.* The bill eliminates an advisory council and establishes a commission. The proposed Commission consists of 5 members: one state employee and 4 residents. Members of the Commission are entitled to receive traveling expenses that are necessarily incident to the performance of official functions. The Commission must hold at least one meeting every calendar year. The expenses of the Commission will depend on the number of meetings held and the travel expenses incurred by the members.

Currently, the Natural Resources Commission has an advisory council that advises the NRC with respect to the implementation of the NRC's powers and duties. The advisory council consists of 12 members. The members are entitled to receive traveling expenses that are necessarily incident to the performance of official

functions. In 2010, the expenses of the advisory council were almost \$11,000. The bill repeals this advisory council.

Natural Resources Study Committee. During the 2011 interim, the committee must study certain topics outlined in the bill. The committee must make findings and recommendations concerning the topics regarding changes needed to increase efficiency and accountability in the adoption of rules and the exercise of duties and responsibilities. The Committee must issue reports and recommendations as directed by the Legislative Council. This provision would have an impact only if the study of the assigned topics resulted in the NRSC having to meet more often than it would have without the assignment of the topics. The NRSC has been limited to a budget of \$9,500.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DNR, LSA.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: DNR.

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